

Message Text

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64

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 USIA-15 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7888

UNCLAS MEXICO 6770

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: ARREST OF AMERICANS, MEXICO CITY CONSULAR DISTRICT

1. ARREST CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WITHIN THE MEXICO CITY CONSULAR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO MOUNT AT ACCELERATED RATE. AS OF SEPT. 1 THERE WERE 113 AMCITS IN JAIL AS COMPARED WITH 55 SAME TIME LAST YEAR.
2. DRUG RELATED CASES ACCOUNT FOR WELL OVER EIGHTY PERCENT OF ALL ARRESTS HERE WITH 93 PERSONS AS OF THIS DATE COMPARED WITH 34 ONE YEAR AGO.
3. COUNTRYWIDE TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 1 SHOW SAME OVERALL TRENDS. TOTALS CONTINUE UPWARD WITH DRUG-RELATED CASES ALSO ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN EIGHTY PERCENT OF ALL ARRESTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.
4. CONTRARY TO PROBABLE BEST INTENTIONS OF LOCAL MEXICAN AUTHORITIES, IN MOST CASES THEY DO NOT RPT NOT NOTIFY EMBASSY (OR APPROPRIATE CONSULATE) OF ARRESTS, AND AMERICAN CITIZENS, ALTHOUGH THEY REQUEST TO DO SO, ARE NOT ALWAYS ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMBASSY. IN ADDITION, DEA REPRESENTATIVES NOT AWARE OF ALL DRUG-RELATED ARRESTS AND AS RESULT DO NOT HAVE TIMELY KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS IN ALL CASES. CONSEQUENTLY, SOME ARRESTS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN UNREPORTED BY EMBASSY FOR APPARENTLY INORDINATELY LENGTHY PERIODS. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, WHICH USUALLY APPEAR

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SEVERAL DAYS AFTER ARREST, CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARY SOURCE OF

OUR KNOWLEDGE OF ARREST OF US CITIZENS.

5. MOUNTING NUMBER OF ARREST CASES AND SITUATION DESCRIBED
PARAGRAPH 4 MIGHT RESULT IN INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH
RELATIVES AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SEEK DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE.
EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE EFFORT TO REPORT ARRESTS SOONEST,
INTERVIEW PRISONERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER LEARNING OF
ARREST AND COMMUNICATE WITH ATTORNEYS, FRIENDS, AND RELATIVES
WITH MINIMUM DELAY.
MCBRIDE

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